

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
12/8/13 – 1/7/14

DISTRICT 1

CO Dave Miller received a complaint of subjects hunting from the bed of a pickup truck. CO Miller responded and located the vehicle operating with two young subjects in the bed of the pickup and with uncased bows in the vehicle. The subjects had already used their deer tags and had borrowed a tag from one subject's mother. Tickets were issued to both subjects and the CO is following up with the subject's mother for loaning the license.

CO Mark Leadman was patrolling in the deer yards of Marquette County and observed fresh drag marks along a side road where a deer had been killed. Fresh vehicle tracks in the snow led back to a camp where contact was made with two hunters. A fresh doe was hanging on the buck pole outside camp. One of the hunters stated that his wife had shot the deer the night before and had left for home. They explained that the deer was not found until early that morning. Parts of the story did not make sense and CO Leadman attempted to contact the wife. CO Leadman was unable to make contact with anyone at the residence until the following day. The hunters had returned home by that time and they quickly admitted they had used the wife's tag on the deer at camp. He explained that his wife was unwilling to go along with their story and would not lie to an officer. A ticket was issued for using another's kill tag.

As CO Trey Luce was checking snowmobile trails near Ishpeming one operator approached him and quickly tried to avoid contact with the CO. CO Luce was able to stop the sled, which had an expired trail permit and no registration decals. After checking, the CO found the operator had a suspended driver's license and the snowmobile had not been registered for the last two years. Several tickets were issued and the snowmobile was parked.

CO Trey Luce provided assistance to local law enforcement agencies with locating an assault suspect in the Helen Lake area. The suspect reportedly fled on a side by side ORV. Being familiar with the suspect, CO Luce led the responding officers to his camp, which was a short distance from the scene of the incident. The subject was arrested for the assault and lodged in the county jail.

CO Grant Emery is investigating multiple fur related violations in Gogebic County. CO Emery received information about animals being taken illegally and not being registered within the required time frame. The investigations are ongoing.

CO Brian Bacon followed up on a complaint of shots fired after dark. A suspect was developed and interviewed. A loaded .22 rifle was found in the suspect's vehicle and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Kyle Publiski was working the Raco area when he observed a snowmobile with an expired registration. Upon stopping the snowmobile the operator became agitated because he was stopped. CO Publiski explained to him that his snowmobile was showing an expired registration. Upon further inspection it was found that the snowmobile was purchased last year and the owner failed to transfer the title in his name, along with there being no valid registration. Ticket was issued for failing to transfer registration.

CO Jeff Panich was investigating a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint regarding a subject who had an untagged deer hanging in his garage. The CO responded and contacted the individual, who promptly took him to the deer and showed him that the deer was legally tagged. During the interview, the subject asked questions about penalties for hunting with a crossbow in the late season in the Upper Peninsula. The subject then stated he would turn in anyone who poached deer this way. CO Panich cleared the complaint and while working another complaint in the area was informed that the previous suspect had shot a deer with a crossbow. The CO returned to the first complaint and informed the suspect of the information he had learned. At this the suspect admitted to taking a deer with a crossbow during the late archery season in the U.P. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeff Panich and Kyle Publiski were working in Mackinac County when a vehicle driving on the roadway approached and stopped several yards in front of them. The COs contacted the operator, who was rapidly trying to unload an uncased rifle in the passenger seat next to him. A recently killed deer was also located in the bed of the vehicle. The subject stated he never hunts this way, but he considered how deep in the woods he was and figured he wouldn't see any law enforcement in the area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hammill was on routine patrol when he crossed paths with a black powder hunter coming out of the woods. The hunter provided his kill tag and claimed that he had no luck. The CO asked about his hunting blind and proceeded into the woods to check things out. At this point the hunter became nervous and said, "You're not going to like what you find." Upon arrival at the deer blind the CO located a fresh blood drag trail. He then located a doe and a crossbow that were hidden in the woods. The hunter confessed that he illegally shot the doe with his crossbow. Charges are being sought for an illegally taken deer.

CO Mike Hammill received a complaint about a cougar being illegally shot in Schoolcraft County. The CO conducted a thorough investigation which revealed evidence of a cougar kill along with a suspect. After further investigation and interviews with assisting officers and detectives, the suspect confessed to shooting the cougar. Further investigation revealed parts of the animal which were seized and taken into evidence. Charges are being sought in the case.

DISTRICT 3

Following up on a hunt from motor vehicle and recreational trespass complaint from firearm deer season, CO Mike Feagan located the suspect from a tip received. Contact was made during a traffic stop, which resulted in traffic tickets being issued. Arrest warrants are being sought for the deer season violations.

While investigating a recreational trespass complaint, Sgt. Greg Drogowski received information that the suspect had a marijuana grow operation in his residence. Working with the local narcotics team (SANE), officers were able to seize over a dozen marijuana plants. Charges are pending.

While observing a trail intersection on the North Central snowmobile trail (25 mph speed limit), CO Mike Feagan watched four snowmobilers race up to a stop sign. One reached over and shut off another one's sled, then took off at a high rate of speed along with the other two. The fourth operator got his sled started and hit the gas, and was paced at 55 mph a short while later. All four were ticketed for excessive speed.

While patrolling Grand Lake, CO Jon Sklba located an angler who had just finished smoking marijuana. He also happened to have a 14 inch walleye in possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Albert received a complaint of a dead deer with an arrow sticking it which was found in the complainant's back yard. The complainant stated the deer was not in the back yard when they went to bed and their dogs were barking after midnight. CO Albert followed the blood trail to a nearby residence and received a confession from the homeowner that he shot the deer around midnight. A report has been forwarded to the prosecutor's office.

CO Bill Webster had received complaints of stolen tree stands on state land over a period of three years. CO Webster, CO Warren MacNeill and a detective with the Wildlife Resource Protection Section (WRPS) investigated. A suspect was interviewed and a stolen tree stand was located. The COs searched the suspect's residence and located numerous other tree stands. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Bill Webster contacted two anglers who were fishing with four lines; and were surprised to see the CO due to poor ice conditions. Both were ticketed for fishing with more than three lines.

DISTRICT 4

Spec. Brad Dohm and CO Justin Vanderlinde were checking a vehicle for possible road hunting activity when a Jeep pulled up behind the officers. Upon contact with the operator of the Jeep both COs detected the odor of burnt marijuana. When CO Vanderlinde had the subject step out from the vehicle he admitted to possession of marijuana that was recovered from a vest pocket. Conducting a pat-down of the subject

resulted in the discovery of a loaded, unregistered concealed handgun. Additional marijuana was recovered from the subject's residence. Warrants have been requested through the prosecutor's office for the controlled substance and firearm violation.

CO Mike Wells conducted an investigation of a retail sales distributor issuing military licenses to non-military personnel. The investigation resulted in multiple license sales issued by one individual. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells received a RAP complaint of an individual shooting at a flock of wild turkeys with a rifle within the safety zone of a residence. CO Wells responded to the scene and was able to obtain eyewitness information that directed him toward a suspect. CO Wells conducted several follow-up interviews and located the shooter, who at first stated he was just trying to scare them off the roadway when he jumped out of his vehicle and shot three times at the large flock. Warrants have been requested through the prosecutor's office.

COs Steve Converse and Sam Koscinski responded to a complaint of a subject shooting a deer from a motor vehicle. The COs checked the area and found where a deer had been shot near the road. With no deer in sight, CO Koscinski noticed a fresh set of footprints and sled markings had visited the location and left. Evidence in the snow was apparent that a deer had been loaded onto the sled. CO Koscinski followed the tracks and observed what appeared to be the sled with a deer on it stopped along a power line. CO Converse joined CO Koscinski and they investigated the situation. Upon approaching the sled, the COs observed a non-responsive male lying in the snow. The COs initiated CPR with EMS responding but the subject was unable to be revived.

DISTRICT 5

CO John Huspen was on patrol when he observed a broken fence on state land. The fence was there to keep vehicle traffic out of a restricted area. CO Huspen followed the tracks and located the driver and vehicle. CO Huspen left the driver with a ticket and a better understanding of the law.

CO Mike Hearn was patrolling on a snowmobile near a remote area of heavily posted private property which is the subject of numerous trespassing complaints. The CO located and followed fresh snowmobile tracks entering the private property and caught three suspects in the act of trespassing. In addition to the trespass, the suspects were riding through the property owner's standing crops. The suspects complained that 'if a property owner did not want snowmobilers on their property that they should put up a fence'. CO Hearn explained the law along with taking enforcement action.

CO John Huspen was patrolling Hanson State Wildlife Refuge when he located three subjects cutting standing timber. Unfortunately for them, cutting standing timber was not the only violation, as the area they were cutting was completely closed to all cutting of firewood. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough located a vehicle parked on the road near a beaver dam and found a subject walking down the road. While talking with the first subject a second subject came out of the woods from the area of the beaver dam. CO McCullough has had numerous contacts with the second subject. After talking with the subjects and checking the traps the CO located numerous untagged snares and traps in the vehicle. A check of licenses revealed that one subject was trapping without a license as well as trespassing. This repeat offender received another ticket

CO Mark Papineau assisted COs Derek Miller and Michael Drexler regarding an illegally taken deer harvested during the firearm season in Gladwin. During a deer processor inspection in Washtenaw County, CO Derek Miller uncovered several deer that appeared to have been harvested on the same day the license was purchased. CO Michael Drexler interviewed the subject at his residence in Wayne County and learned that both deer were shot without licenses. During several interviews with COs Drexler and Papineau, the subject confessed to hunting without a license, along with his 14 year old son. To their surprise, two eight point bucks appeared on their bait pile and were shot by the father and son. Immediately thereafter, both subjects purchased licenses and tagged the deer. Warrants are being sought with the Gladwin County Prosecutor.

As CO Lockwood was on patrol, he observed a vehicle drive slowly past him. A short time later the same vehicle drove by going in the opposite direction. CO Lockwood continued his patrol down the seasonal road. A short time later he observed drag marks and blood in the snow and tracks where a vehicle had turned around. The CO followed the tire tracks back to a remote private camp and found the same vehicle that had driven past him earlier. CO Lockwood located a small drop of blood on the back of the vehicle and contacted the occupants of the camp. The owner of the camp asked the CO several times to overlook this one and wiped the blood from the vehicle. After several interviews with the subjects at the camp the deer was located. The subject who shot the deer had hidden it in the bed of a truck underneath several full garbage bags. The deer did not have a tag attached and the subject who shot the deer did not have a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Lockwood observed a vehicle parked alongside the road with the hunter a short distance away watching a deer crossing the road. CO Lockwood had contacted the subject during rifle season and remembered the subject had only one tag. A short time later CO Lockwood returned to the area and saw that the vehicle was gone, but there were blood and drag marks in the snow and the subject's coat on the ground where he had been hunting. The CO parked in the area to see if the hunter would return for his hunting coat. Within a short period of time the hunter returned and parked in the area of the coat. The CO contacted the subject and he stated he was returning to the area to look for the deer he shot. The subject then showed the CO his license. The subject had shot two deer and was returning to retrieve the second deer hidden in the woods a short distance away. After talking with the subject and showing him the evidence, CO Lockwood followed the subject to his friend's house to retrieve the other deer. The subject was going to drive home to get his wife's license but did not want to drive that far. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough contacted a hunter during the muzzleloader season and received information about the possible illegal killing of a deer. CO McCullough was familiar with the suspect and contacted him at his residence. During the interview CO McCullough asked about the muzzleloader that was used to kill the deer. The subject was unsure of the caliber and stated that he gave the muzzleloader to a relative to take downstate to clean. The subject took the CO into the garage where the deer had been hanging to retrieve the tag off of a work bench. The tag had been validated for different dates. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Warren MacNeill responded to a complaint of a possible injured chicken hawk that was inside a shed. The caller stated that he tried to feed the chicken hawk but it refused to eat the raw chicken he was feeding it. The caller cautiously allowed CO MacNeill into the shed to rescue the chicken hawk. CO MacNeill was able to recover the bird and take it outside the shed where he identified the bird for the caller. The caller was very embarrassed to find out the bird refused to eat the raw chicken because it was, in fact, a chicken itself.

CO Jon Warner responded to a RAP complaint of the illegal killing of a deer. CO Warner located evidence of a freshly killed deer in the driveway of the suspect. The suspect did not try to hide anything and told CO Warner that he shot a deer with his bow. The subject did not have a license for the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Warner along with a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper and a forest service officer were checking a deer camp for a subject who had outstanding warrants for his arrest. While checking the camp they located another subject who was a convicted felon in the presence of several firearms. CO Warner checked the subject's hunting licenses and discovered the subject had purchased too many deer licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

CO Joshua Wright was on snowmobile patrol in Tuscola County when he attempted to stop a snowmobile for an expired registration and no trail permit. The operator failed to stop after several attempts by the officer. After about five miles, the operator stopped at a residence and was arrested for flee and elude, resist and obstruct an officer, reckless operation of a snowmobile, and the original two charges for the initial stop. The operator was lodged in the local county jail and the snowmobile was impounded.

CO Jason A. Smith received a complaint of snares being set on public land in violation of the law. Snares can only be set on private property. After hiking just short of a mile a trapper was located checking his snares. The snares were found and a ticket was issued.

While CO Chad Foerster was off duty and walleye fishing on the Saginaw Bay, he overheard a group of anglers talking about how many walleye they were catching. The CO then heard one of them talking about going back to the hotel to drop off some fish. The CO contacted Sgt. Ron Kimmerly with a description of the snowmobile that left for shore. The Sgt. checked all the area hotels and found a truck pulling one snowmobile that met the description. The Sgt. noted the vehicle description and later that afternoon found the vehicle parked out on the Saginaw Bay near Linwood. The Sgt. waited for the suspects to come back from their afternoon of fishing. The first suspect was contacted and had five walleye in his cooler. A search of the ice shanty produced five more walleye that were hidden. The second suspect also had a limit and more walleye hidden. The Sgt. followed the two back to the hotel and found another nine walleye hidden in a plastic trash bag behind the hotel. The Sgt. checked another angler who had 10 walleye over his limit. While the Sgt. was dealing with all the violations a truck and trailer pulled into the hotel. The Sgt. contacted those two anglers who advised that they each had five walleye. Further investigation revealed that these anglers had also hidden two trash bags behind the hotel that contained 12 more walleye. A total of 61 walleye were seized and all five were issued tickets for possessing overlimits of walleye.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint of a hunter who may have shot a buck in the late antlerless season. The CO located the suspect and after a short interview the hunter confessed to shooting a five point buck with his gun on the first day of the late season. Other violations included failing to tag the deer and hunting without a license. It was also discovered that he tagged a doe with a turkey tag and that the suspect's girlfriend shot a buck in the firearm season with an archery tag. Enforcement action was taken.

While working Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell located a vehicle that had just pulled off the road into a field. The hunter in the vehicle got out and made his way to the CO. After a short talk, the CO walked over to the truck and located a loaded 30-30 and an uncased shotgun. The passenger in the truck admitted that she was hunting with the shotgun and did not have a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Payne made a waterfowl baiting case this past fall on the Pine River in Alma where six hunters were arrested. The total fine and restitution was \$6,000. The hunters also had their shotguns condemned and lost their hunting privileges for two years.

On New Year's Eve CO Jeremy Payne took a RAP complaint of a buck shot out of season. The complainant advised that he saw someone shoot a buck. The complainant was out hunting and had just shot a doe. He told the CO that while he was field dressing the doe he saw a seven point buck run out of the woods. He advised he heard a shot and then saw the buck drop in its tracks. When the CO asked for the suspect's description, the hunter advised that he just saw the buck drop. After further investigation the CO determined that the original complainant had shot the buck. This was confirmed through a confession. The shooter advised that he was hunting with his friend and he wanted to make sure that he could take a deer home. The subject was issued a ticket for taking the buck out of season.

DISTRICT 7

CO Michael Mshar followed up on information he received of a subject taking a deer before he purchased a license. When contact was made it was determined that he not only had taken the deer without having a valid license ahead of time but also that he never did tag the deer with the license he bought. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Mshar followed up on information he received of a subject who illegally killed an antlered deer and posted pictures on his Facebook account. The subject confessed to shooting the deer from his work vehicle and taking it on private property he did not have permission to be on. The deer and firearm used in the incident were confiscated and charges are pending against the suspect and an accomplice in the incident for the illegal taking of the deer and for trespassing.

CO Michael Mshar responded to a shots fired complaint of a subject taking two deer with a rifle. It was identified that the shooter was a juvenile and had legally harvested the animals with his shotgun, but had made mistakes with the tagging requirements. CO Mshar met with the subject and his grandfather to discuss proper guidelines for the tagging requirements and warnings were given.

CO Gary Raak responded to a snowmobile trespass complaint and while he was discussing the situation and regulations with the complainant, witnessed the snowmobilers without helmets operating through the area on the road. Contact was made and it was also identified that their sleds were unregistered and lacked trail permits. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Holmes received information from a complainant that a subject had been trapping coyotes and raccoon while trespassing. CO Holmes obtained an illegally set trap and contacted the suspect who admitted to setting the traps. The suspect was ticketed for trespassing and trapping without a license. The same subject had been ticketed in 2009 for hunting waterfowl with lead shot and in 2010 for trespassing while turkey hunting.

CO Greg Patten was called to investigate a trespassing situation in Muskegon County where he further established a bobcat had been taken by a trapper. As the County is closed to state licensed bobcat trapping, it was determined the trapper was a tribal member operating under consent decree regulations. Upon conferring with tribal enforcement and additional investigation, the trapper was ticketed by tribal enforcement for the illegal taking of a bobcat on private lands without permission.

CO Cary Foster responded to a waterfowl trespass complaint along the Grand River in Ionia County and found six hunters who had all trespassed to access a hunting location. Upon speaking to the hunters and finding several minor violations, he ticketed one for no state waterfowl license and a second for hunting with an unsigned license.

DISTRICT 8

CO Jeff Goss investigated a complaint of a possible captive fawn. Upon responding to the complaint CO Goss observed the deer standing at the front steps of a house. The subject at the house explained that they found the fawn in the field behind their house and admitted to bottle feeding it and providing it with shelter. CO Goss explained that it is against the law to rehabilitate wildlife without a license and that a licensed rehabilitator was on her way to take the deer to her facility. While CO Goss was waiting for the rehabilitator to arrive, the subject was asking the CO questions and keeping him distracted. Unbeknown to CO Goss the female subject had sneaked out of the house and tried to hide the deer in a nearby wooded area. When the rehabilitator arrived they were unable to locate the deer. Unfortunately for the female subject there were three inches of freshly fallen snow on the ground. CO Goss was able to quickly locate the subject and the fawn approximately a quarter of a mile away hunkered down in the woods. The deer was safely transported to the rehab facility and charges are being sought for rehabilitating wildlife without a license.

CO Shane Webster concluded an investigation into the taking of a large 12 point buck by a person without a license. When presented with the evidence, the individual confessed to having taken the deer and purchasing a license the next day. Charges are pending with the prosecutor's office.

CO Shane Webster located a suspicious antlerless tag from a processor inspection. The tag had been purchased after hunting hours had ended but the deer was delivered to the processor on that same day. Initially upon interview with the subject, he attempted to stick with the story of having purchased the license prior to killing the deer. When he discovered CO Webster would then be charging him with taking a deer after hours he confessed that he had taken the deer earlier in the day and had then purchased the tag to take it to the processor. Charges are pending with the prosecutor's office.

CO Shane Webster spent some time checking ditches and drains for trapping activity and located several untagged traps while checking a small waterway off the road. Further checks in separate locations within the area turned up 21 untagged traps. CO Webster located three traps that were tagged within a mile of the other traps that happened to be of the same make as those that he had found untagged. An interview with the subject revealed that he was responsible for the untagged traps and that he had secured no permission in the areas that he was trapping. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster worked an internet based complaint of an individual who had posted pictures of a nine point whitetail he had taken. The subject had not purchased any buck tags for the year. Upon contact with the subject, he denied having taken the deer himself and claimed his son had shot the deer. The antlers were found and indeed

a Mentored Youth license was found on the deer. CO Webster questioned the individual on why only the subject's name was on his entry online and not the youth's. The subject claimed he had sent the email explaining his entry but apparently it had gotten messed up. CO Webster left the residence but was still not convinced by the subject's story. CO Webster did some more online research and found a posting by the subject's girlfriend, a picture of a young child and the nine point deer with the statement "Daddy's big buck". CO Webster re-contacted the subject and presented him with the posting. The subject broke down and confessed that he had taken the deer and used his son's license on it, since it was a cheap way to go and he had not purchased a buck license for himself. A warrant request is pending.

CO Shane Webster followed up after locating a photograph of a female individual with a six point whitetail. CO Webster found statements that she had taken the deer during the archery deer season. A check was made of the individual and it was found that she had never purchased a hunting license, and has never completed a hunter's safety class. CO Webster contacted the subject, who tried to say that her boyfriend had actually taken the deer. When presented with several statements that she had made stating she was the hunter, she finally confessed to having taken the deer. It was discovered that no license had been purchased for the deer and it was simply cut up in the garage. Charges are being sought with the prosecutor's office.

CO Todd Thorn was given a RAP complaint of young men trespassing while small game hunting. Contact was made with the subjects who admitted to trespassing and taking some rabbits. Further investigation into their hunting activities revealed that one had taken an overlimit of bucks in 2013 and the other had shot five deer while only purchasing one antlerless tag. The antlerless tag was still in his possession and had not been used. A number of other charges were found, including taking a turkey without a license, hunting small game without a license, possessing a road killed deer without a permit, hunting within a safety zone, and purchasing firearm and archery deer tags along with combination deer tags. Venison meat and antlers were seized and charges will be sought through the local prosecutor's office.

CO Rich Nickols received a RAP complaint of two subjects trespassing who shot a deer on the complainant's property. CO Nickols responded to the area and located the subjects as they were getting ready to leave. The subjects had been rabbit hunting in a residential area and the "deer tail" that the complainant saw turned out to be a rabbit that had been shot. Not only had the subjects been trespassing, they were in violation of the complainant's safety zone and one of them did not have a small game license. Tickets were issued.

COs Pete Purdy and Jason Smith responded to a RAP complaint of two waterfowl hunters shooting 30 minutes after hunting hours. The COs contacted the hunters and encountered several violations, including hunt / shoot after hours, possession of lead shot, possess overlimit of hen mallard, no federal stamps, no small game license, and no Michigan waterfowl license. Enforcement action was taken. In addition one of the

subjects had three misdemeanor warrants for probation violations. That subject was lodged into the Livingston County Jail.

CO Jason Smith received a trespassing complaint on the last day of the muzzleloader season. CO Smith was able to track down the hunter and located an untagged deer hanging in a garage. CO Smith asked the hunter why it was not tagged and the hunter provided a tag from another hunter, stating that it was his buddy's, and that he had the tag for it. CO Smith rephrased the question and the hunter admitted to hunting the deer without any valid deer license and also admitted to borrowing his friend's tag. CO Smith also learned that the hunter was a convicted felon. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Kris Kiel finished up an investigation of a subject who took three antlered deer. CO Kiel located a subject in the act of overbaiting for deer and made contact. Along with too much bait, the subject told CO Kiel that he had taken a "six point that wanted to be a seven point" and handed him his Regular Combination Deer license. CO Kiel followed the subject back to his shed to see if his deer had the required four points or more on one side to have tagged it with the Restricted License. Not only did the deer not have a fourth point, CO Kiel located another deer head with the antlers cut off. The subject stated that his friend had shot an eight and a ten point buck on opening day of firearm deer season. A tag was located for the friend that was validated for an antlerless deer during the archery season which would make one of the friend's two bucks illegal. A third deer head with four points was then located and said to also belong to the friend. Contact was made with the second party and a full confession was given.

CO Todd Szyska received a complaint from CO Kris Kiel that a subject was overlimiting on panfish at Harbor Club North Marina. CO Szyska checked numerous anglers, but the suspect was already gone upon arrival. One angler who was checked was happy to show his limit of bluegill; however, the angler had not had a fishing license since 2010. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received information from CO Shane Webster regarding a set of antlers CO Webster had located at a taxidermist in Jackson County. The antlers had a tag on them which was validated for November 16th; however, it was not purchased until after the end of legal hunting hours on that date. The antlers were labeled as coming from Genesee County. CO Webster conducted a computer research and found a picture of the subject posing with the deer at night and the deer did not have a tag on it. CO Kovach contacted the subject, who admitted to shooting the big buck without first purchasing a license. She stated it was the first trophy buck she ever shot. A warrant is being sought.

CO Ken Kovach reports on a trial of a subject he arrested on opening day of the firearm deer season for shooting an antlerless deer without a valid license. The subject was found guilty and fined \$200. He also lost his hunting privileges per statute and has to

pay \$1000 reimbursement for the deer. The judge ordered the subject to ten months probation instead of jail.

CO Mark Ennett was checking for waterfowl hunters on the final day of waterfowl season. CO Ennett was able to watch a vessel and two occupants motoring on Lake Erie, and shooting at what appeared to be ducks on the water while the boat was in motion. At one point, the boat operator was seen steering the short-shaft engine with his left hand, and shooting with his right hand. The vessel returned to the dock well after dark without navigation lights. Both hunters denied committing any violations at first, but then claimed they thought shooting at wounded birds exempted them from shooting while under power. CO Ennett ticketed both hunters for shooting/hunting waterfowl from a motorized vessel while in forward motion. The operator also received a warning for no navigation lights.

CO Ben Shively responded to a RAP complaint during a winter storm of a subject who had shot two fawns and that the fawns were still alive. CO Shively arrived on scene and met with the complainant, who stated he heard two shots and when he came out he saw the deer still alive just off his property. He stated that the hunter approached the deer and he began to yell at him and he took off. CO Shively dispatched the doe and yearling and began to search the area for the hunter's footprints. After 15 minutes of searching CO Shively located two additional does that had been shot. CO Shively made contact with the hunter who was returning to the deer. When asked why he had left the scene, the hunter explained that his family had had issues with the complainant and he was trying to avoid a confrontation. CO Shively asked if he had shot all four deer. The hunter stated that he had only shot three times and had only shot three deer. CO Shively showed the hunter the four deer and determined that the yearling was standing behind the third doe when he shot. The hunter stated he had seven or eight deer licenses. CO Shively asked to see the licenses to cover the four deer. CO Shively looked through the hunter's combination licenses and doe permits and found that the hunter did not have any private land doe permits for Oakland County. The hunter was ticketed for taking an antlerless deer without a license and all four deer were seized and donated to Sportsmen Against Hunger.